

Marching order for judge holding May 9 trials withdrawn

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday withdrew the transfer order of a district & sessions judge (D&SJ), the presiding judge of an anti-terrorism court in the provincial capital, holding jail trials of various cases of May 9 riots.

LHC Registrar Amjad Iqbal Ranjha issued a notification on Jan 6 regarding the transfer of two sessions judges including Arshad Javed, the judge of the ATC-III, Lahore.

D&SJ Javed was transferred from Lahore and repatriated to Bahawalnagar to replace D&SJ Asif Bashir, who was transferred from Bahawalnagar to Lahore as OSD at the Lahore sessions court against a newly-created post.

Both judicial officers were directed to assume their new charge on or before Jan 9.

However, on Wednesday, the registrar issued another notification withdrawing the transfer of both sessions judges with immediate effect.

D&SJ Arshad Javed was posted at ATC-III in September 2023.

During the last year, the judge handed down sentences to PTI leaders and workers in multiple cases of May 9 riots. At present, he is seized with the jail trials of many other such cases, which were near conclusion.

Through another notification issued on Wednesday, four D&SJs were transferred and posted including Ali Nawaz from OSD at Lahore to Layyah, Naeem Sheikh from Special Court (Central-I) Gujranwala to Chiniot, Shahida Saeed from Chiniot to Lahore as OSD at sessions court and Jazeela Aslam from Layyah to Lahore as OSD at sessions court.

Court moved against proposed floating restaurant on canal

LAHORE: The proposed construction of a floating restaurant on the canal has been challenged before the Lahore High Court.

Renowned architect Dr Ajaz Anwar along with others filed a petition through their counsel, Azhar Siddique, raising objections to the floating restaurant project.

The petitioners pointed out that the project to build a floating restaurant on the canal near Jallo Park has been initiated, which is not legally valid.

Relying on the Lahore Canal Heritage Park Act, 2013 and the Parks and Horticulture Authority Act, 2012, the petitioners said the city canal and its greenbelts from Jallo Park to Thokar Niaz Beg have been declared a “heritage park,” with a prohibition-first regime that bars construction, infrastructure development, land-breaking and any cutting or damaging of trees.

They argued that the project violates the law and is also in conflict with environmental laws.

The petitioners further stated that due to the movement of heavy machinery, recreational activities for children have been brought to an end.

They sought formation of a joint team to review the proposal and asked the court to declare the project contrary to the law. — Staff Reporter

Eight booked for stealing diesel from Parco pipeline

TOBA TEK SINGH: Two owners of an LPG decanting plant along with six accomplices were booked on Wednesday for stealing diesel from Parco refinery's Karachi-Sheikhupura main pipeline.

In his complaint, Faisalabad Parco assistant security officer Karim Nawaz claimed that the accused persons had dug a 30-foot-long and six-foot-wide tunnel and laid a 187-foot-long underground pipeline for drawing out diesel into their LPG plant located in Chak 219-JB on the Jhang Road.

He alleged that accused Sheikh Muhammad Amer and Muqaddar Khan Baloch and their six accomplices were stealing diesel and supplying it to unknown locations via a mini oil tanker.

No arrest has been made so far in the case. — Correspondent



LAHORE: Preparations for Jashn-i-Baharan on Ferozepur Road. — APP

Community health inspectors programme launched

55,000 inspectors to be hired; plan envisages creation of a digital health profile for every household

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that her government believes in proactive governance rather than reacting after emergence of problems, emphasising that preventive healthcare remains central to her administration's vision.

She was addressing the launching ceremony of the Community Health Inspectors Programme here on Wednesday under which 55,000 commu-

nity health inspectors would be hired.

“Once these inspectors enter the field, diseases will be driven out of Punjab. Prevention is far less painful than treatment after illness has already taken hold,” she said and added when mothers, sisters and daughters came forward to serve in the field, no one could defeat Punjab.

She described the community health inspectors initiative as a transformative step, saying that Punjab's women have strength and determination to change the province's destiny. She said the inspectors have undergone months of training and are now ready to serve humanity by delivering healthcare at the grassroots level.

Calling the community health inspectors her “eyes, ears and pride,” the CM said Punjab is becoming self-reliant across the sectors. “Women play a defining role in Punjab's development and contribute effectively to improving public

health outcomes. Through clinics-on-wheels and field hospitals, medical treatment has already been provided to nearly 30 million people across the province.

Under the new programme, community health inspectors will be able to conduct basic diagnostic tests, including blood sugar checks, and administer injections.

The CM said she took interest in designing the inspectors' uniforms and approving their tool kits. She said 25,000 individuals had already been provided with employment under the programme, with a monthly salary of Rs50,000.

“Those who prove themselves through performance will see further increase in their salary,” she said, acknowledging the demanding nature of door-to-door service.

She said this programme would result in the creation of a digital health profile for every household, enabling early

detection of diseases and maintaining complete medical records through digital systems.

“Patients will be examined and, where necessary, will be referred to relevant hospitals for further treatment. The time has come when people do not have to come to the government; the government itself comes to them,” she said.

Referring to broader healthcare reforms, Maryam said free medicines for cancer and heart diseases are being provided, while cardiology institutes have been established in Sargodha, Sahiwal and Murree. She said that a cath lab was operational in Jhelum and that similar facilities were set to be launched in Jhang.

“It is my dream that no patient visiting a government hospital ever faces hardship,” she said, reaffirming her commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare facilities to the people of Punjab.

Three dead, 34 injured in fog-related accidents

SAHIWAL / OKARA / NAROWAL / TOBA TEK SINGH: Three people were killed and 34 others injured in fog-related accidents in various parts of Punjab.

In one accident, an employee of the Pakistan Navy was killed and his wife and two children were critically injured in a road accident near the Small Industrial Estate at Jahaz Ground on Wednesday morning.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident occurred amid dense fog when a speeding dumper truck crushed the family as they stood by the roadside waiting for a rickshaw. The deceased, identified as Muhammad Ashraf, was on leave and spending time with his family when the incident took place. His wife, Shahla Kirin, their daughter Aamara, and son Hasan were injured in the incident.

Rescue 1122 confirmed that Ashraf died on impact, while the three survivors were rushed to the Sahiwal Teaching Hospital in critical condition.

The dumper driver, identified as Muhammad Din, fled the scene immedi-

ately after the collision. The City Police registered a case against the driver on the complaint of the deceased's father and raids were being conducted to apprehend the suspect.

In Okara, a mini truck rear-ended a trailer on the GT Road near a toll plaza due to fog. As a result, four men were trapped inside the trailer. Rescue 1122 rescued the trapped men, however, one man identified as Maqbool of village 38/2R succumbed to his injuries. The other injured, identified as real brothers Ashiq Masih, Waris and Amir Masih, were shifted to the DHQ City Hospital.

In another accident in Okara, a 32-year old biker identified as Muhammad Ahmad was hit by a tractor trolley on Shergarh Road. As a result, the motorcyclist was killed on the spot and Rescue 1122 shifted his body to the Renala THQ Hospital.

In Samundri, 17 passengers of a bus were injured after the bus collided head-on with an oil tanker and overturned in the Kabarianwala Chowk late on Tuesday night due to fog.

Rescue 1122 officials provided first aid to 12 of the injured while five critically wounded passengers were shifted to the Samundri THQ Hospital. They were identified as Muhammad Azeem (23), Nasreen Bibi (21), Taj Mai (60), Muhammad Umar (30) and Razia Bibi (65).

In another similar accident on the Shakargarh Road in Narowal, a passenger bus overturned and caught fire injuring 11 passengers.

A Narowal Rescue 1122 spokesperson said that rescue teams were dispatched after receiving information of the accident near the Bhajna stop.

He said that the rescue team, with the help of locals, pulled the injured passengers out of the bus. He said the rescue medical team provided first aid to the injured and shifted five of them to the Shakargarh THQ Hospital. He said the fire brigade team brought the fire under control within an hour. The rescue spokesperson said that teams from Kartarpur and Shakargarh stations participated in the rescue operation. — Dawn Report

Biometric verification for entry to courts

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) is going to make biometric verification mandatory for all parties, witnesses and sureties involved in cases filed in the court and the district judiciary of Punjab.

The verification system would be linked to Nadra's database, ensuring accurate and reliable verification. The biometric verification facility would also be available at Nadra e-sahulat centres, making it convenient for citizens to access the service, said a statement.

LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum believes that the implementation of the biometric verification system will curb fake litigation, protect parties from impersonation and prevent the use of fake witnesses and sureties.

The system will be rolled out in the LHC's principal seat and its benches in Multan, Bahawalpur, and Rawalpindi, as well as in all district judiciary courts across the province.

Wanted Katcha area dacoits surrender during police operation

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The district police claimed on Wednesday that a notorious wanted dacoit, Mira Lathani, surrendered, along with his two accomplices, during a police operation in the Katcha.

According to a handout, Rahim Yar Khan police conducted an operation in the Katcha area, resulting in surrender of Mira Lathani and his accomplices Fida alias Rathor Lathani and Zulfi Lathani.

The government had placed Rs10 million head money on Mira Lathani.

Confirming the report, District Police Officer Irfan Ali Samoon said the hardened criminals surrendered because of the pressure created by police which had been had been continuously conducting intelligence-based targeted operations

in the Katcha area of Sadiqabad.

Police sources say that as the police tightened the noose, Mira Lathani and his gang members surrendered peacefully.

The arrested proclaimed offenders were allegedly involved in serious crimes, including murder, attacks on police and kidnapping for ransom.

The DPO says that police's doors are open for those who decide to abandon weapons and choose to live a peaceful life, adding that such persons will be given a fair chance to live a better and lawful life.

The DPO stated that the operations against the Katcha area criminals will continue to ensure public safety and maintain law and order.

SUSPENDED: Four Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco) officials were

suspended from service over negligence in official duties.

Mepco RY Khan Superintending Engineer (SE) Operations Abdul Hafeez Bhatti ordered the suspension of the four officials for failing to send faulty and burnt electricity meters to the M&T Laboratory for data retrieval.

The suspended officials have been directed to report to the local Mepco office.

As per officials, Grade II Line Superintendent (LS) Nadeem Jamal of Jamal Din Wali Sub-Division, Sadiqabad, was suspended for not sending 105 meters to M&T lab, Grade I LS Ahmed Ali Khan of Gulshan-i-Iqbal Sub-Division, RY Khan, was suspended for not sending 652 meters, Grade II LS Zahid Shakoor of Mian Wali Qureshian Sub-Division, Khanpur and

acting LS Second and Lineman First Abdul Haleem of Khanbela Sub-Division, Liaquatpur, were suspended for failing to send 515 meters to the M&T lab, from July 2022 to January 3, 2026.

The SE has directed the executive engineers (EXENs) of the concerned divisions to prepare charge-sheets against the suspended officials and initiate disciplinary proceedings under the Pakistan Wapda Employees Efficiency and Discipline Rules 1978 against them. The sources say that there were many complaints of alleged money extortion from consumers for issuing new meters, detection bills, over reading and late reading, especially in the sub-divisions of RYK and Khanpur city. — Correspondent

Tribunal cites court verdicts for rejecting Yasmin's plea

Finds petition legally untenable as it fails to meet statutory requirements

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh

LAHORE: An election tribunal has declared that the superior courts have passed a plethora of judgements holding that the non-compliance of statutory requirements under the Election Act 2017 results in the summary rejection of an election petition.

The tribunal presided over by retired justice Rana Zahid

Mehmood issued a detailed judgment on an election petition filed by incarcerated PTI-Punjab president Dr. Yasmin Rashid challenging the victory of PML-N president and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif from NA-130, Lahore.

Dr. Rashid, who contested the election as an independent candidate, stood the runner-up in the election with 104,491 votes, and alleged that the official results—which declared Nawaz Sharif the winner with 179,312 votes—were the outcome of a systematic fraud.

Her petition outlined several grievances including allegations of rigging, the unlawful replacement of the returning officer and illegally changed results.

Her legal team argued that accord-

ing to Form-45 data, she had actually won by a lead of 20,895 votes, securing 99,428 votes against Sharif's 78,533.

The PTI leader was represented by a legal team led by senior lawyer Ahmad Awais.

Barrister Asadullah Chattha, the counsel for Nawaz, raised several

the candidate himself to file the election petition.

The election petition was filed on April 16, 2024, which the tribunal found to be 16 days past the mandatory 45-day deadline following the official gazette notification of the returning candidate.

Detailed judgement on NA-130

patent statutory defects that barred the petition from proceeding to a full trial.

He pointed out that the petition was not filed by Dr. Rashid herself but by her husband through a special attorney.

The tribunal noted that section 139 (1) of the Act strictly requires

The tribunal noted that the verification of the petition was also incomplete, failing to specify the exact day in April 2024 when it was signed.

The counsel for Dr. Rashid also failed to provide an affidavit of service confirming that copies of the petition and all evidence were sent

to all 17 respondents via registered post, a mandatory requirement under Section 144.

The counsel for the petitioner submitted that due to some human lapse the affidavit perhaps either could not be placed on record or somehow misplaced from the election petition.

Therefore, he argued, no adverse inference can be drawn against the petitioner in this regard.

In its verdict, the tribunal asserted that section 145(1) of the Elections Act acts as a legal barrier, mandating the summary rejection of any petition that fails to comply with sections 142, 143 and 144.

While the petitioner's counsel argued that the alleged grave corrupt practices should outweigh tech-

nicalities, the tribunal maintained that adherence to the special statute's procedures is a condition precedent for any election challenge.

To reject this argument of the petitioner's counsel, the tribunal relied upon seven judgements of the superior courts including a judgement passed in a 2019 challenge to the victory of election of former prime minister Imran Khan in 2018 polls.

As the election petition of Dr Rashid was filed through an attorney, missed the deadline and lacked the necessary service affidavits, the tribunal found it to be legally untenable.

The tribunal, through a short order, had dismissed the petition on Dec 30, 2025.